

1
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
MID-SUSSEX AREA

1972



RURAL DISTRICT OF CUCKFIELD

By

D. M. RICHARDSON

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.F.C.M., D.P.H., D.I.H.

Charles Clarke (Haywards Heath) Ltd.

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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CUCKFIELD

REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Health Department,
Oaklands,

Haywards Heath,

Tel. No. Haywards Heath 50301

October, 1973

To the Chairman and Members of the Cuckfield Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year 1972.

This is the last report which I shall write as Medical Officer of Health as the post will disappear both locally and nationally on the 31st March, 1974.

The corrected birth rate remained steady but due to a slight increase in the death rate the natural increase in population for the year (10) was markedly less than the previous year when a figure of 72 was recorded. The infant mortality rate of 13.16 was double that of 1971 but still well within the national average, and, of the total deaths recorded (6), 4 took place during the first week of life. The still birth rate remained steady but due to an increase in the early neonatal mortality rate the perinatal mortality rate increased to 17.39 as compared with 14.37 in 1971. The P.M.R. for the Mid-Sussex area was 21.28. Expressed as a percentage of total live births the illegitimacy rate was 6.14 as compared with a previous figure of 3.93. There were no maternal deaths during the year. The number of deaths due to cancer of the lung and bronchus (23) representing 5.16% of total deaths, rose slightly as compared with the previous year when a figure of 4.62% was recorded.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION—MID-SUSSEX AREA

The computerization of vaccination and immunisation records has now been completed by the County Health Department and the following figures represent the totals for children born since the 1st January, 1965, i.e. up to the age of 8 years. I understand from the County Medical Officer that as each year passes it will be possible to extend this information by a further year.

Triple Antigen:

Primary Injections	1,006
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Diphtheria and Tetanus:

Reinforcing Injections	1,698
------------------------	----	----	----	-------

Smallpox Vaccinations:

Primary Vaccinations	164
----------------------	----	----	----	-----

Revaccinations	38
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Poliomyelitis:

Primary—oral vaccine	1,009
----------------------	----	----	----	-------

Reinforcing doses	1,712
-------------------	----	----	----	-------

Measles:

Primary Vaccinations	1,432
----------------------	----	----	----	-------

B.C.G.:	18
---------	----	----	----	----

Influenza—Immunisation of Staff

In November multivalent vaccine was given to sixty-three members of the staff.

INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATES OF VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX AND CHOLERA

During the year 3,129 certificates were authenticated by the Health Department.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Twenty seven cases of infectious disease were notified during the year. Eleven were attributed to scarlet fever, eight to measles, six to infective jaundice, one to food poisoning and one to malaria.

Family Outbreak of Food Poisoning due to *Staphylococcus aureus*

A family doctor reported suspected food poisoning in a family resident in the Mid-Sussex area. It would appear that brawn, purchased from a local shop, had been consumed some two to four hours before the onset of vomiting and diarrhoea in four out of six members of the family group. Faecal specimens were submitted to the laboratory which, in due course, reported the presence of Coagulase Positive *Staphylococcus aureus* in one member of the family and subsequent culture from the remainder of the brawn also produced a heavy culture.

The shop was visited and nasal swabs from the butcher and his assistant were submitted to the laboratory, together with swabs from the fingers, overalls and several utensils. The nasal swabs showed a heavy growth of Coagulase Positive *Staphylococcus aureus* in almost pure culture and the remaining swabs also showed the presence of the organisms in considerable numbers. Suitable treatment was arranged for the butcher and his assistant, together with a general tightening up of hygiene in the shop, and instructions were given that no cold meats were to be prepared or served until further notice.

Subsequent tests, including the typing of entero-toxin showed, quite unexpectedly, that neither the butcher nor his assistant were directly responsible for contamination of the brawn, and we were forced to the conclusion that the brawn must have received its inoculation of staphylococci whilst on display in the shop.

This incident might never have occurred had there been a refrigerated display cabinet in the shop for the storage of cooked meats. The latter equipment would not only have protected the food from the public but, in the event of bacterial contamination, would have prevented the rapid multiplication of organisms to a level where clinical symptoms were inevitable following ingestion of the food.

At the present time, installation of a refrigerated cabinet in retail shops is not a statutory requirement under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

SWIMMING BATHS AND BATHING POOLS

There is only one public swimming pool in the area under my supervision. This open-air pool is situated in the southern half of the district. Mains water is used for filling at the beginning of the season and is treated at the pool by pressure filters, aeration and chlorination.

Samples from the above, together with those obtained from swimming pools attached to private schools, were submitted for bacteriological examination during the bathing season.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948
NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951
Section 47:

This Section provides for the compulsory removal from their homes of elderly, infirm or incapacitated persons, who are not receiving proper care and attention. Such persons are often living on their own under poor and insanitary conditions and although it was not necessary to take formal action under this section, several cases were investigated during the year.

W.R.V.S. MEALS ON WHEELS SERVICE

During 1972 a total of 13,497 meals was provided. Since the inception of this service in January, 1962, a total of 85,166 meals has been provided.

Great credit is due to the local W.R.V.S. for the administration and day-to-day running of this valuable service.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

During the year medical examinations were carried out for the following authorities:—

Cuckfield Rural District	..	..	..	6
Cuckfield Urban District	..	..	..	6
East Sussex County Council	..	..	..	125

I would like to express my thanks to Mr. Relf, Chief Public Health Inspector, for his help and co-operation in the work of the department and for the particulars which he has supplied for this report. I also wish to record my appreciation to other members of the staff for their loyal support during the year, particularly Mrs. Westgate, my Secretary, and her successor Mrs. Cassam who took over in June.

In conclusion I would like to thank members of the Council, particularly the Chairman and members of the Health and General Purposes Committee, for their support and also the officers and staff in other departments for their help during the year.

D. M. RICHARDSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

<i>Medical Officer of Health</i>	.. ..	D. M. Richardson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.F.C.M., D.P.H., D.I.H., F.R.I.P.H.H.
<i>(Also Medical Officer of Health to Cuckfield Urban and Burgess Hill Urban Districts and Medical Officer (part-time) to East Sussex County Council Honorary Consultant in Epidemiology and Clinical Assistant in Dermatology—Mid- Sussex Hospital Management Committee)</i>		
<i>Chief Public Health Inspector</i>	..	R. S. Relf, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. <i>Qualified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods</i> <i>Qualified Housing Manager</i> <i>Qualified Building Inspector</i>
<i>Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector</i>		B. P. Darking, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H. <i>Qualified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods</i>
<i>District Public Health Inspector</i>	..	H. Sharp, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. <i>Qualified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods</i>
<i>Secretary to the M.O.H. and Administrative Assistant</i>	..	Mrs. B. P. Westgate (Resigned 2.6.72) Mrs. G. M. Cassam (Appointed 28.2.72)
<i>Clerk to the M.O.H.</i>	.. ..	Mrs. L. Hazelgrove
<i>Secretary to the C.P.H.I.</i>	.. ..	Miss J. M. Woodland
<i>Clerk to the C.P.H.I.</i>	.. ..	Miss Y. R. M. Manning

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Summary of Statistics for the Years:

	1970	1971	1972
Area of the District in Acres	68,011	68,011	68,011
Population estimated to middle of year ..	38,960	38,820	39,380
Rateable Value	£1,435,862 (at 1.4.70)	£1,511,757 (at 1.4.71)	£1,558,943 (at 1.4.72)
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£5,875	£14,500	£15,350
Density of Population (persons per acre) ..	0.57	0.57	0.58
Number of Houses	12,020	12,389	12,705
Birth Rate (corrected) per 1,000 population ..	14.07	13.56	13.43
Death Rate (corrected) per 1,000 population ..	9.44	8.90	9.74
Infant Mortality Rate	11.93	6.21	13.16

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births								Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	221	207	428
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	14	28
Total Live Births								235	221	456
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (crude)								..	..	11.58
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (corrected)								..	..	13.43
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births								..	..	6.14

Still Births									Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	4	
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
Total Still Births									2	2	4
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (live and still births)									..	..	8.69
Total Live and Still Births									Male	Female	Total
									237	223	460
Infant Deaths									Male	Female	Total
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age											
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	4	
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	—	2	
Total									5	1	6
Infant Mortality Rates :—											
(a)	All infants per 1,000 live births						..	..	..	13.16	
(b)	Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births						..	..	..	9.35	
(c)	Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births						..	..	..	71.43	
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age									Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	4	
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	1	
Total									4	1	5
Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births									..	..	10.96
Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age									Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	3	
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	1	
Total									3	1	4
Early Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births									..	..	8.77
Perinatal Mortality									Male	Female	Total
Still Births and Deaths under 1 week					..	..	..	5	3	8	
Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live and still births											
(a)	Cuckfield Rural			..	..	..	..	..	..	17.39	
(b)	Mid-Sussex Area			..	..	..	..	..	..	21.28	
Maternal Mortality											
Maternal Deaths (including abortion)					..	..	..	..	..	Nil	
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births					..	..	..	..	..	0.00	
Deaths									Male	Female	Total
All causes					..	..	..	..	214	232	446
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population (crude)					..	..	..	..	..	11.33	
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population (corrected)					..	..	..	..	..	9.74	

TABLE SHOWING VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEARS 1958-1972

Year	Esti- mated Popula- tion	Number of Births						Birth Rate	Number of Deaths			Death Rate	Infants' Deaths			Infant Death Rate	Natural Increase of Births over Deaths
		Legitimate			Illegitimate				M	F	Total		M	F	Total		
		M	F	Total	M	F	Total										
1958	27,880	173	202	375	14	3	17	15.46	159	181	340	9.75	4	3	7	17.85	52
1959	28,750	207	191	398	13	6	19	15.51	147	172	319	9.09	4	4	8	19.18	98
1960	29,470	237	226	463	12	4	16	17.38	162	280	442	9.51	5	1	6	12.52	37
1961	30,470	236	240	476	8	4	12	16.66	177	187	364	10.27	2	3	5	10.25	124
1962	30,770	238	240	478	10	12	22	16.90	190	190	380	10.62	8	3	11	22.00	120
1963	31,000	276	224	500	10	11	21	18.49	220	201	421	11.40	3	3	6	11.52	100
1964	33,590	272	258	530	13	7	20	18.00	164	166	330	8.24	2	4	6	10.91	220
1965	34,980	245	225	470	13	20	33	15.81	191	168	359	8.41	1	1	2	3.98	144
1966	35,470	244	205	449	14	13	27	14.76	189	187	376	8.58	2	3	5	10.50	100
1967	35,950	224	214	438	10	17	27	14.22	202	187	389	8.44	2	—	2	4.30	76
1968	37,110	229	197	426	19	8	27	13.31	216	201	417	9.67	5	3	8	17.66	36
1969	37,810	222	213	435	16	15	31	13.43	202	154	356	8.01	5	2	7	15.02	110
1970	38,960	243	225	468	13	22	35	14.07	227	211	438	9.44	2	4	6	11.93	65
1971	38,820	233	231	464	10	9	19	13.56	189	222	411	8.90	3	—	3	6.21	72
1972	39,380	221	207	428	14	14	28	13.43	214	232	446	9.74	5	1	6	13.16	10

CAUSES OF DEATH IN CUCKFIELD RURAL DISTRICT

Cause of Death	Sex	Total	Under 1 Year	1- 14	15- 44	45- 64	65- 74	75 and over
Infective and Parasitic Diseases other than Syphilis and its Sequelae	M	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	M	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	3	—	—	—	1	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	M	3	—	—	—	2	1	—
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Malignant neoplasm, intestine ..	M	3	—	—	—	—	2	1
	F	7	—	—	—	2	1	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	M	18	—	—	—	5	10	3
	F	5	—	—	—	3	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast ..	F	15	—	—	3	8	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, prostate ..	M	5	—	—	—	—	4	1
Leukaemia	M	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	4	—	—	—	1	1	2
Other malignant neoplasms ..	M	13	—	—	—	7	3	3
	F	18	—	—	—	6	8	4
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	F	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Diabetes mellitus	M	3	—	—	—	—	1	2
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Other endocrine etc., diseases ..	M	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Anaemias	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Mental disorders	F	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Multiple sclerosis	F	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Other diseases of nervous system	M	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	1	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease ..	F	2	—	—	—	1	1	—
Hypertensive disease	M	4	—	—	—	2	2	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Ischaemic heart disease	M	63	—	—	1	17	27	18
	F	48	—	—	—	6	11	31
Other forms of heart disease ..	M	11	—	1	1	—	2	7
	F	14	—	—	—	2	2	10
Cerebrovascular disease	M	27	—	—	—	1	8	18
	F	37	—	—	1	1	4	31
Other diseases of circulatory system	M	9	—	—	—	2	1	6
	F	14	—	—	—	—	2	12
Influenza	M	3	—	—	—	2	—	1
	F	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pneumonia	M	11	—	—	—	1	3	7
	F	20	—	1	—	1	4	14
Bronchitis and emphysema ..	M	13	—	—	—	1	5	7
	F	6	—	—	—	1	—	5
Asthma	F	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Other diseases of respiratory system	M	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
	F	4	—	1	—	—	—	3

continued on next page

CAUSES OF DEATH IN CUCKFIELD RURAL DISTRICT

Cause of Death	Sex	Total	Under 1 Year	1- 14	15- 44	45- 64	65- 74	75 and over
Peptic ulcer	M	2	—	—	—	—	1	1
	F	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Appendicitis	M	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cirrhosis of liver	M	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Other diseases of digestive system	M	2	—	1	—	1	—	—
	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Nephritis and nephrosis	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Diseases of Musculo-skeletal system	M	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	1	1
Congenital anomalies	M	2	1	1	—	—	—	—
	F	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc. Symptoms and ill defined conditions	M	3	3	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Motor vehicle accidents	M	3	—	—	1	1	1	—
	F	2	—	1	—	—	1	—
All other accidents	M	2	—	—	1	—	—	1
	F	3	—	—	1	—	—	2
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	M	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Totals	M—214 F—232	446	6	7	12	82	119	220

MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE CUCKFIELD RURAL AREA

	1971	1972
(i) Diseases of the heart and circulatory system (Ischaemic diseases)	169 (41.12%) 116 (28.22%)	167 (37.44%) 111 (24.89%)
(ii) Cancer (all sites) (Cancer of Lung and Bronchu)	86 (20.92%) 19 (4.62%)	94 (21.08%) 23 (5.16%)
(iii) Cerebrovascular disease	63 (15.33%)	64 (14.35%)
(iv) Respiratory diseases (including tubercu- losis and influenza) (Respiratory tuberculosis)	44 (10.71%) Nil	60 (13.45%) Nil

CAUSE OF DEATH IN INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

	<i>Cause</i>								<i>Age</i>
1. Anencephaly	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1½ hours
2. Pneumothorax	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	2 hours
3. Prematurity	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15 hours
4. Ebsteins Anomaly	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4 days
5. Respiratory Distress.	Prematurity								20 days
6. Sudden death in infancy syndrome complicating									
Acute Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5 months

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

The following Laboratories are utilised for the examination of specimens :

Public Health Laboratory, Brighton

Cuckfield Hospital Laboratory

Public Analyst's Laboratory at Lewes

I would like to express my thanks to the Directors of the above Laboratories for their assistance, particularly Dr. J. E. Jameson, of the Brighton Public Health Laboratory, for his helpful advice on many occasions.

Ambulance Facilities

Cases of infectious disease are removed by one of the East Sussex County Council's ambulances stationed at Haywards Heath or Burgess Hill Ambulance Station.

Hospital Accommodation for Infectious Diseases

Beds are no longer available at Foredown Hospital, Portslade. Four single rooms are available at the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton (York Ward) for the treatment of adult cases of infectious disease, but it is understood that in an emergency further beds would be made available if required. There are facilities for the treatment of children up to the age of 12 or 13 at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Sick Children, Brighton.

Smallpox

The South-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board state that cases of smallpox occurring in this district should be sent to the River Hospitals (Long Reach), Dartford, Kent.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Child Health Clinics:

Ardingly	..	..	Hapstead Hall	1st Thursday 2.30-4 p.m.
Balcombe	..	..	Church Hall	3rd Wednesday 2.30-4 p.m.
Copthorne	..	..	Village Hall	1st and 3rd Tuesday 2-4 p.m.
				Dr. each session
Crawley Down	..	..	Village Hall	2nd Tuesday 2.15-4 p.m.
Horsted Keynes	..	..	Congregational Hall	3rd Friday 2 p.m.
Hurstpierpoint	..	..	Methodist Hall	1st Wednesday 2-4 p.m.
				3rd Wednesday 2-4 p.m.
				Dr. each session
Keymer	..	..	Congregational Church	2nd and 4th Monday 2-4 p.m.
			Hall, Hassocks	
Slaugham	..	..	Village Hall, Handcross	3rd Monday 2.15-4 p.m.
West Hoathly	..	..	Village Hall	1st Tuesday 2-4 p.m.
Lindfield	..	..	Congregational Hall	1st and 3rd Tuesday 2-4 p.m.

Clinics:

Chest Haywards Heath Hospital Every Thursday 9.30 a.m.
(by appointment)
Cuckfield Hospital Thursday 2 p.m. Diagnostic

Orthopaedic B.R.C.S. (H.Q.), *Orthopaedist :*
Paddockhall Road, 2nd Tuesday 10.30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Haywards Heath *Physiotherapist :*
Tuesday 10.30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Friday 9.30 a.m.-1 p.m.
2-4.30 p.m.

Speech Therapy .. E.S.C.C. Clinic, Oaklands, Monday, 9.15 a.m.-12.15 p.m.
Haywards Heath Tuesday, 9.15 a.m.-12.15 p.m.
(by appointment)
E.S.C.C. Clinic, Monday 1.30-3 p.m.
Mill Road, Burgess Hill (by appointment)
E.S.C.C. Clinic, Tuesday 1-3 p.m.
Royal George Road, (by appointment)
Burgess Hill

Child Guidance .. **East Grinstead :** Every Friday
Moat Road (by appointment)
Lewes : Every Wednesday
Castlegate House (by appointment)
Portslade : Tuesday morning
Old Shoreham Road Thursday (by appointment)
Burgess Hill : Every Friday
E.S.C.C. Clinic, (by appointment)
Mill Road
Crowborough : Every Tuesday
Mead House, (by appointment)
Beacon Road

Eye Refractions .. Haywards Heath Hospital Every Friday morning
(School Children) (by appointment)
Morley Street Clinic, Alternate Thursday mornings
Brighton (by appointment)

Dental **Haywards Heath :** By appointment
E.S.C.C. Clinic, Oaklands
Burgess Hill : By appointment
E.S.C.C. Clinic,
Royal George Road
East Grinstead : By appointment
County Dental Clinic,
Moat Road

Minor Ailments .. E.S.C.C. Clinic, Oaklands, As required
Haywards Heath

Cancer Prevention ..	Haywards Heath :	Tuesday evenings and
	E.S.C.C. Clinic, Oaklands	Wednesday mornings as necessary (by appointment)
	Burgess Hill :	Tuesday mornings and Thursday evenings as necessary (by appointment)
	E.S.C.C. Clinic, Mill Road	Wednesday mornings and evenings as necessary (by appointment)
	E.S.C.C. Clinic, Royal George Road	Wednesday mornings and evenings as necessary (by appointment)
	East Grinstead :	Wednesday mornings and evenings as necessary (by appointment)
	Moat Road	
*Family Planning ..	E.S.C.C. Clinic, Oaklands, Haywards Heath	Every Wednesday 2-4 p.m.
		Dr. each session (by appointment)
		Every Wednesday, 6.30 p.m.

*These Clinics are provided by the Family Planning Association

Venereal Diseases ..	Facilities available at Royal Sussex County Hospital Brighton					
Women ..	Tuesday ..	4-7 p.m.				
	Thursday ..	10 a.m.-1 p.m.				
Men.. ..	Monday ..	4-7 p.m.				
	Wednesday ..	10 a.m.-1 p.m.				
	Thursday ..	2-5 p.m.				
Men and Women ..	Friday ..	11 a.m.				
		Urgent cases only				
		(By appointment direct to V.D. Clinic)				
		New patients must attend 1 hour before clinic closes				

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS

Disease	Total	Under 1 year	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	Over 25
Malaria	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Infective Jaundice	6	—	—	—	3	—	3
Scarlet Fever	11	—	—	9	1	—	1
Measles	8	—	5	2	1	—	—
Totals ..	27	—	5	11	6	—	5

COMPARATIVE TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS

Year	New Cases						Deaths						Number on Register at end of Year					
	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			Respiratory			Non-Respiratory		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1948	12	9	21	2	2	4	7	5	12	-	1	1	59	51	110	27	34	61
1958	8	5	13	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	94	71	165	10	12	22
1959	6	1	7	1	-	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	96	70	166	11	13	24
1960	3	4	7	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	95	76	171	11	11	22
1961	5	1	6	1	-	1	2	-	2	-	-	-	97	74	171	12	11	23
1962	2	4	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	96	77	173	11	12	23
1963	3	5	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	96	75	171	9	10	19
1964	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	89	61	150	7	11	18
1965	5	1	6	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	89	65	154	7	11	18
1966	3	1	4	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	87	62	149	7	11	18
1967	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	82	54	136	6	11	17
1968	4	2	6	1	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	84	57	141	7	12	19
1969	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80	57	137	6	11	17
1970	1	-	1	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	61	40	101	3	8	11
1971	1	1	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	62	39	101	3	9	12
1972	-	-	-	1	-	*1	-	-	-	-	-	-	62	38	100	4	9	13

*Male aged 62

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR ON THE SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

GENERALLY

The Department works within the oversight of two Committees, the Health and General Purposes Committee and the Housing Committee. Although the administration of the 'discretionary' and 'standard' grant scheme and the various certification works in respect of rent control (a Housing Sub Committee concern) accounts for a considerable amount of available staff time, the Health and General Purposes Committee has been mainly concerned during the year. Whilst this is certainly a housing stress area, this is due to financial implications common particularly in this portion of the South East, and not due to the physical condition of properties which, in the main and by informal means, it has been possible to maintain in reasonable order.

Because of the heavy commitments arising from a natural increase in work due to:— the rising population, the increasing awareness of that population of potential environmental hazards, and the additional responsibilities arising from the impending major and drastic reorganisation of local government—coinciding with a serious staff shortage—it has been necessary to curtail this report in respect of items not specifically required to comply with D.H.S.S. Circular 1/73.

In last year's report it was noted that for the first time for several years the full establishment (still based on that of 1946) was available. This continued for one month into 1973 when a District Inspector moved to an adjoining district. Despite five sets of advertisements in appropriate publications the post remained unfilled during the year; and at the time of writing (October, 1973) is still unfilled. The reason for this—which applies to the London area as well—is primarily the high local cost of living in general, and the exceptional cost of even moderate sized houses in particular. Once a candidate finds out that a comparable house here is likely to cost several thousand pounds more than in other parts of the country he is naturally deterred and, in the absence of special 'weighting' or a compensating increase of salary, invariably takes up a post in a 'cheaper' area where, usually the stresses are less anyway.

Unlike some Departments which have a regular and ascertainable workflow the Public Health Department is particularly subject to very varied—and quite unpredictable—stresses. Whilst much of the relevant legislation can always provide more than adequate routine duties to absorb the staff potential (for instance the searching out of unsatisfactory houses and places where people are employed) in practice it is the daily 'special' cases which tend to take up most of the available time, since, to be on the safe side, every complaint must be assumed to be of a potentially serious nature and given some degree of priority. One does not continue with a predetermined 'house to house' inspection programme when news comes in that there is a strong smell of petrol in a length of sewer, particularly—and this has just happened—when a local licensee (12,000 gallons concerned) reports that he seems to be 500 gallons short!

The purpose of mentioning this aspect is to explain that in time of staff stress (staff also go sick and have certain leave entitlement) one has to choose the lesser of two evils; and invariably day to day special problems have to be given priority to the detriment of the routine programme of inspections which every well organised department tries so hard to carry out.

A. HEALTH AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Water Supply (5 (a))

Over 99% of houses and other relevant premises are connected either to the public main or to a controlled private service ; it has been adequate in quantity and also in quality, the Water Undertakers and the Health Department each undertaking a regular pattern of sampling, both chemical and bacteriological.

No case of contamination came to light during the year, the only complaints, of sediment, being due to routine flushing of mains by the Company or emergency Fire Brigade use.

Required information—in a parish basis—regarding the supply position is given in the following table:—

Parish	No. of Premises	Premises with piped supply	
		No.	Estimated population
Albourne	228	226	738
Ardingly	542	542	1865
Balcombe	600	596	1966
Bolney	408	406	1372
Clayton	654	654	2458
Cuckfield Rural	817	714	2380
Fulking	115	104	355
Horsted Keynes	494	494	1436
Hurstpierpoint	2087	2079	7064
Keymer	2210	2210	6823
Lindfield Rural	784	784	2666
Newtimber	43	43	153
Poynings	126	124	378
Pyecombe	98	98	416
Slaugham	724	721	2094
Twineham	93	93	297
West Hoathly	636	636	2399
Worth	2636	2611	7765
Total	13295	13135	42625

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal (6)

Arrangements for this are certainly ‘ reasonably adequate,’ although the two ‘ suspect ’ areas mentioned in previous reports (Valebridge Road area near Burgess Hill and Tyes Cross area near Sharpthorne) remain unsewered. With reorganisation, certainly the former, ought to be dealt with.

The cesspool emptying service (managed by the Engineer) continues to be fully employed, although on occasion, due to personnel shortage or breakdown of vehicles, the service is not so expeditious as one would hope. Against this, requests for service are usually based on a specific period between emptyings, rather than because the cesspool itself is actually overflowing, so only rarely is this Department contacted.

As the Council endeavours to secure the sewerage of all but small isolated groups of properties, it might be expected that the workload of this section ought to be reducing. The fact that it is not is to some extent due to the fact that this Department, from the first, has actively sponsored the improve-

ment grant scheme which has resulted in the installation of more baths lavatory basins and water closets—and the consequent increase in sewage to be dealt with. For the same reason, the Council has been able to discontinue the pail closet emptying service.

Common Lodging Houses (7)

As would be expected in this relatively ' well off ' area of the South East, the last remaining common lodging house has long since been closed—and demolished.

Services under the Food and Drugs Act 1955 (9)

(a) Partly due to a temporary difficulty in regard to test animals at the laboratory 4 (compared with 34 the previous year) samples of milk were tested specifically for Brucella Abortus. All being negative no further action was called for. Whilst appropriate general advice is given at the time of sampling anyway, liaison with the Ministry officers takes place if a positive sample comes to light. The current eradication scheme, without doubt, will have the same success as obtained with the earlier efforts to stamp out tuberculosis in our food animals—and in consequence man.

Penicillin screening—automatically carried out by the laboratory—was also negative. In conjunction with the contiguous Urban authorities, Ice Cream and fresh cream samples are taken on a random basis; all were found to be satisfactory.

(b) The following table indicates the categories in trade groups, of premises subject to the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations. (This is based on last year's figures suitably updated).

Type of Premises	Total No.
Catering Establishments	80
Schools (Private and State) .. .	31
Grocers' Shops	66
Sweet Shops	21
Butchers' Shops	16
Greengrocers' Shops	13
Confectioners' Shops	9
Wet Fish Shops	4
Fried Fish Shops	3
Mobile Fish Shops	3
Mobile Fried Fish Shops	2
Wholesale Stores	4
Total ..	252

(121 premises were registered for the sale of wrapped ice-cream (there are no manufacturing premises) whilst 9 rooms were registered for sausage preparation, 5 for cooking of food and 1 for brining/pickling of meat).

With the return to full establishment a particular effort was made, last year, to bring this particular aspect of our work up to date, and most of the above premises were visited at least once.

The enforced curtailment of routine visits in previous years had resulted in a slight deterioration of standards and it causes concern that the effort to regain the high standard usually obtaining in this district was once more frustrated due to inability to attract replacement staff.

(c) Poultry Inspection

There remains 3 specific poultry processing premises within the district to which 69 visits were made during the year. It is understood that some 15,400 birds (primarily hens and broilers, but also some capons and turkeys) were dealt with.

Hygiene wise, the premises are to a reasonable standard and basically inspections are made by trade 'spotters' supplemented by periodical checks by the District Inspector when slaughtering is taking place during one of his routine visits. It is known that in case of doubt the Department is to be contacted but, during the year, no specific request for a confirmatory visit was received.

Although there is a fairly large broiler and battery hen population within the district, birds are taken to the large slaughtering establishments situated in adjoining districts for processing.

At certain periods of the year, notably around Christmas, many farmers offer dressed birds for sale—usually pre-ordered—and efforts are made to ensure that these premises reasonably satisfy the usual requirements.

(d) Generally

Statutory 'condemnation' was not called for during the year but the following foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered:—

<i>Source</i>	<i>Article</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Containers</i>
From Wholesale Stores:	Canned Fruit	1262lbs.	202 tins
		—	289 „
	Canned Vegetables	324lbs.	45 „
		—	41 „
	Canned Meat	750 „	131 „
	Meat	97 „	—
From Retail Stores:	Canned Meat	192 „	15 „
	Meat	173 „	—
	Fish	552 „	—
	Vegetables	37 „	—
From Mixed Premises:	Frozen Food	—	558 pkts.
	Home Packed Wafers	—	3 cases

This year, most of the above items were dealt with following specific requests for opinion by the trade, rather than by discoveries during routine visits. This work which, particularly in a rural district, is quite time consuming, is really more of a service to the trade (i.e. our Certificates enable them to claim against their suppliers) than a protection service to the public, and one wonders why some form of nominal charge (if only to cover travelling costs) has not been universally imposed in respect of this work. Traders tend to expect a telephone call to be given absolute priority and an inspector to set off immediately; with an already overstressed staff position, this is rarely possible unless, of course, a rapidly perishable article is concerned.

INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER THE FACTORIES ACT 1961 (10)

Tables, in the form set out in Appendix II of the Circular are as follows:—

(a) Inspections for purpose of provisions as to health

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspec-tions	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	98	11	*	—
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	101	12	—	—

* four verbal notices.

(b) Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspec-tor	By H.M. Inspec-tor	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary convenience (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	2	2	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	5	5	—	—	—

There were 13 outworkers listed on 1st August, with no known cases of default, or other need to institute prosecution.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Although not required for the purpose of Circular 1/73 the Act requires a local authority to provide certain statistics and which, for convenience, are reproduced here.

Class of Premises	No. of premises newly registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	No. of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year
Offices	—	48	3
Retail shops	—	119	32
Wholesale shops, warehouses	—	3	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens ..	—	24	8
Fuel storage depots	—	5	—
Totals ..	—	199	44

Analysis of persons employed in registered premises by workplace

<i>Class of workplace</i>	<i>Number of persons employed</i>
Offices	346
Retail shops	388
Wholesale departments, warehouses..	45
Catering establishments open to the public	149
Canteens	24
Fuel storage depots	16
	<hr/> 968 <hr/>

In general the ' drive ' instituted in 1971 (when visits increased from 26 in 1970 to 160) could not be maintained, although 44 visits were fitted in during the year.

OTHER INFORMATION NOT SPECIFICALLY ASKED FOR

- During past years comments have been made in respect of:—
- Infestation Control
 - Public Conveniences
 - Hairdressers Establishments
 - Diseases of Animals (Waste Food) Order 1957
 - Clean Air Acts
 - Infectious and Food Borne Diseases
 - Moveable Dwellings (in Cuckfield Rural District, Planning Committee involved)
 - Petroleum Storage
 - Ardingly Showground
 - Complaints
 - Rent Control
 - Unfit Houses
 - House Improvement Scheme

This year, due to the circumstances already mentioned, reference is made only to subjects where there has been a definite change, as follows:—

Infestation Control

This Council, in common with the great majority of local authorities has given some cover against rodents, own staff (one operative only in our case) being employed.

Our long serving operative retired at the end of 1971 and it was not possible to obtain a replacement. Once again financial reasons were responsible for this since, officially, a rodent operative is on the same basic grade as a refuse collector, but without the opportunity of added earnings by reason of an incentive bonus scheme.

As a way out of the dilemma, the possibility of the work being undertaken under contract was explored, and two firms were found willing to carry out the work at approximately the same overall cost as obtained with our direct labour scheme. At the last minute, another firm offered to fulfil our requirements for little more than half of our former outlay and, needless to say, this firm was engaged and, indeed, carried out the work in a prompt and efficient manner, up to and past the end of the year under review.

For convenience it is desirable to continue the story into the current year (1973). When renewal time came, the figure for the ensuing year was well over double and rethinking was called for. By this time reorganisation was being actively considered and it became evident that the probability was that the new Council would continue with rodent control as a service and that direct labour would be favoured. Obviously we could not obtain an operative on the basic rate, but, as two of the other three combining Districts were already employing 'pest control officers'—on a higher grade—by following suit we were able to make an appointment. The other amalgamating authority, placed in a similar predicament, has since made the same arrangement so that, in this regard, all four combining Councils now have the same system in operation which can, if desired, continue unchanged after 1st April, 1974.

Petroleum Storage

In this District the Chief Public Health Inspector is in charge of this aspect; there are nearly one hundred licensed premises, 255,000 gallons of petroleum spirit being stored in some two hundred tanks.

Considerable concern is felt because it has not been possible to carry out other than random checks, and increasing numbers of tanks are long overdue for routine tests. Fortunately no trouble was experienced during the year under review.

However (as briefly referred to earlier) at the time of writing this, reports were received of strong petroleum smells being evident in surface water sewers and a local stream in the centre of the built up area of Hassocks; when a local garage reported that it appeared that some 500 gallons of spirit were 'missing' a full emergency routine—involving the police and fire authorities as well—was mounted. As it happens none of the tanks were due for testing (12,000 gallons involved) although this will now be carried out as a precaution, but one pump was found to have developed a serious gland failure resulting in loss of spirit, both whilst the motor was in operation and until the hose had emptied by gravity into the pump base. The subsoil here is sandy so that there is likely to remain odour trouble here for some while even though explosimeter readings did not register a dangerous concentration of inflammable vapour at the height of the scare. This par-

ticular garage does not rely on daily dipping as a check on loss/theft of product, so it is hoped that the figure of 500 gallons proves to have been optimistic. Following the somewhat similar emergency at East Grinstead the preceding year (where post office ducts were affected) this only adds to the unease of the officer on whose shoulders this responsibility rests.

Complaints:

The trend of increase, both in number and variety, experienced over recent years continued. And as soon as one difficult problem was overcome another seemed to take its place. In particular the wastes produced by factory farming always present problems in areas where stiff clay subsoils abound, and there is a tendency towards looking to manure drying plants as some sort of panacea. Early varieties have not, in the main, been too successful, often merely producing a different type of nuisance. However, it is pleasing to record that the new generation of plants coming on the market are reputed to be reasonably odour free, and one hopes this expectation proves accurate.

Smoke from garden bonfires continues to give much local concern, and perpetrators brought up on the 'burn your refuse and reduce the rates' theme of pre-1956 days are the least easy to be convinced of the undesirability of injudicious burning. If only all authorities made available suitable and accessible places where rubbish (which covers all domestic waste—including hedge trimmings, etc.) could be deposited under controlled conditions (a duty under the Civic Amenities Act), the Public Health Departments could easily overcome the private smoke problem, and the environmentalists would most likely have less trouble from the indiscriminate dumping of mattresses, old furniture, etc., which disfigure our countryside at the present time.

Too often unexpected trouble crops up following the grant of planning permission. Last year fan noise from a recently erected supermarket meat cooling plant gave much concern to local residents and a considerable amount of unsolicited worry to the Department. Fortunately the firm co-operated following informal pressure, and an expenditure of approximately £1,000 on silencing equipment had the desired effect, and no complaints were received during 1972. However, a recently commissioned mushroom compost preparation plant (fortunately not in a highly populated area) is already giving rise to complaints of odour and fan noise so that more valuable time will have to be allotted to checks and, being situated at the extremity of the district, a heavy travelling commitment.

B. HOUSING COMMITTEE

Although not asked for in the Circular some reference must be made to the house improvement scheme which, from its inception, has been encouraged by the Council.

Standard grants are not encouraged (virtually every case has an acceptable 'non-standard' content) and only one grant was approved during the year, the sum involved being £15.

Because of the staff shortage it has not been possible to do anything to really boost applications, yet applications are received in increasing numbers each year. 79 grants were approved this year, compared to 65 in 1971, 55 in 1970 and 35 in 1969. Once approved, public money being involved, works must be closely watched up to the time when a satisfactory completion enables payment confirmation being sent to the Treasurer. And, of course, not less than a similar number of potential applications have to be considered which, for one reason or another, never reach fruition.

However, once an application is finalised and submitted, it is the rule rather than the exception for applicants frequently to press for their case to be given priority treatment; any problems that may occur this end being suitably glossed over. The trouble is that many applicants have genuine reasons for wanting to start work and, unless really 'case hardened', an officer tries, somehow or other, to 'fit in' more applications than time availability warrants,

The average case tends to involve more work than formerly (certainly more than in the pre 1969 Act era where £400 was the maximum and, provided necessary repairs/replacements were carried out, the tax/ratepayer was not involved in subsidising same). During the year £55,602 was involved compared with £36,824 in 1971.

Whilst no application for a Certificate of Disrepair was received during the year, applications for Qualification Certificates continued at about the same rate as previously; this aspect is dealt with under delegated authority.

So long as the improvement grant scheme is taking up all available staff time it is not possible to consider any 'house to house' inspection routine. In a district such as this, with the only housing stress occasioned by the high cost of acquisition, this is probably the most satisfactory arrangement, since house improvement is now 'credited' to an authority in the same way as is the provision of a new house.

